

RECEIVED
JUL 21 1997

"One of America's Best Colleges"

LadyJackets Claim National

NCCA Title

In just their third year of existence, the LeTourneau LadyJackets basketball team has won the NCCAA National Championship.

"Remarkable" would be one of the many ways to describe Coach Orwell and the 1996-97 LadyJackets, who had 20 straight victories, a 30-4 record, the national crown of the National Christian College Athletic Association and a second straight berth in the prestigious NAIA National Tournament.

Led by senior Tracey Pepper, who garnered practically every award available, the LadyJackets finished as the nation's top scoring team as well as the top team in scoring margin.



Head Coach Mary Ann Orwell (left) and Assistant Coach Wendi Gibbs cut down the Championship net. The LadyJackets beat Emmanuel College (GA) 80-71 to earn the national title.



LadyJacket team members gather around the Championship banner at Lee College, Cleveland, Tenn., site of the NCCAA National Tournament.



Staff members Carolyn Miller, left, Melba Brewer, center, and Kendall Harper led cheers for the Women's basketball team when the team bus returned to campus. An enthusiastic group of students, faculty and staff greeted the champs with a cheer rally.

Faith brings
us together.
Ingenuity sets
us apart.

LeTourneau
University

C0962514
Southern Bapt Theological Sem
Library
2825 Lexington Road
Louisville, KY 40280-0001

"Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation." 11 Cor. 6:2

Periodical Postage Paid
at Longview, Texas

Receiving duplicate copies?
Write "stop" on one and
return both labels to us

NOW

P.O. Box 8001
Longview, TX 75607



NOW
Alvin O. Austin
Publisher

William P. Gibbs
Editor

Linda Fitzhugh
Associate Editor

Robin Galliano
Contributing Editor

Denise Andrews
Administrative Support

Hudson Printing
Graphic Design

"NOW" (USPS #307-200)
is published four times a year
by LeTourneau University,
2100 S. Mobberly,
Longview, TX 75602.
Sent free upon request
to Editor, P.O. Box 8001,
Longview, Texas 75607.
Periodical postage paid at
Longview, Texas.
POSTMASTER: Send
address changes to
NOW, P.O. Box 8001,
Longview, Texas 75607.

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

Alvin O. Austin
President

Glenn Sumrall

*Vice President for
Academic Affairs*
William Bailey

*Vice President for
Business and*

Administration
Jim Hughey

*Vice President for
University Advancement*
Charles Hood

*Vice President for
Student Affairs*
Robert Hudson

*Dean of Graduate, Adult
and Continuing Studies*
Howard Wilson

*Dean of Enrollment
Management*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Alvin O. Austin

S.E. Belcher, Jr.

Patrick Bertsche

Loren Calkins

Joel Carpenter, IV

Richard Cheuening

Paul Glaske

Kenneth Hall

Billy Harris

Calvin Howe

Sally Johnson

Nancy Mendez

Foy Meyer

Rogers Pope

Earl Roberts, Jr.

Deb Robey

Byron Sefstrom

Kenneth Schreier

John Solheim

Bill Spain

Fred Starr

William Stegall

Frederick Stendler, Jr.

John Thomas, Sr.

Robert Thorne

Wayne Trull

Ruth Tucker

Clair Weller



President's Message

Refresh, Refocus and Reload

I have just returned from my first-ever sabbatical leave. I've served more than thirty years as a teacher or administrator and have never taken off more than a few weeks of vacation at any time. The University's Board of Trustees encouraged me to take off for a longer period of time, so I left the campus in January to begin a four-month venture during which I would seek to refresh my body and spirit, refocus my personal and institutional leadership priorities, and reload my data base with new ideas and perspectives that will aid in my continuing role as president of LeTourneau University. Some may think of a sabbatical as an "extended vacation" but that was certainly not my intent nor would it suit my "type A" personality.

I visited 16 different college campuses that, in my judgment, were campuses "on the move."

During the four months, Sammie and I traveled from coast to coast about 20,000 total miles—more than 15,000 by car. I visited 16 different college campuses that, in my judgment, were campuses "on the move." Each offered examples of a quality program, an outstanding facility or a president who possessed some leadership qualities that I wanted to explore. I visited with several dozen college presidents one-on-one and with more than 350 in group gatherings. I met with several business and industry leaders, and with a number of our Board members on their home turf, gaining a better understanding of their interests and priorities. As I journeyed, I also sought to fill my mind and spirit with words from scripture and from a list of recommended books. Special spiritual times included sessions with author/speaker Jill Briscoe, Chuck Colson, George Beverly Shea and many members of the Billy Graham team, Senator Mark Hatfield and Chaplain of the U.S. Senate Lloyd Ogilvie, as well as attendance at the National Prayer Breakfast.

As one would suspect, returning to the campus after an extended break just in time for Spring Commencement and the spring meeting of our Board has left me winded as I try to catch-up on the activities of the past months. While the campus was well cared for under the capable leadership of Provost Glenn Sumrall (and we did touch base a number of times while I was away), there is always a backlog of items to review. Therefore, I am still sorting out what I learned from my leave. I know I return with even greater confidence in the quality of what is happening here at LeTourneau...both academically and spiritually. I return with a sense of enthusiasm about our future. I return with some fresh ideas that I trust will aid us in not only meeting the numerous challenges that face the future of Christian higher education but in rising above those challenges as we reach new heights in providing Christ-centered education for the leaders of tomorrow. I return refreshed in both mind and body, refocused on the issues of importance that will direct our future, and reloaded with new ideas and an even deeper commitment to advancing the unique qualities of a LeTourneau education. In the months ahead I will share more of these ideas with you.

LeTourneau University Student Karen Bennett Named Texas Student Teacher of the Year

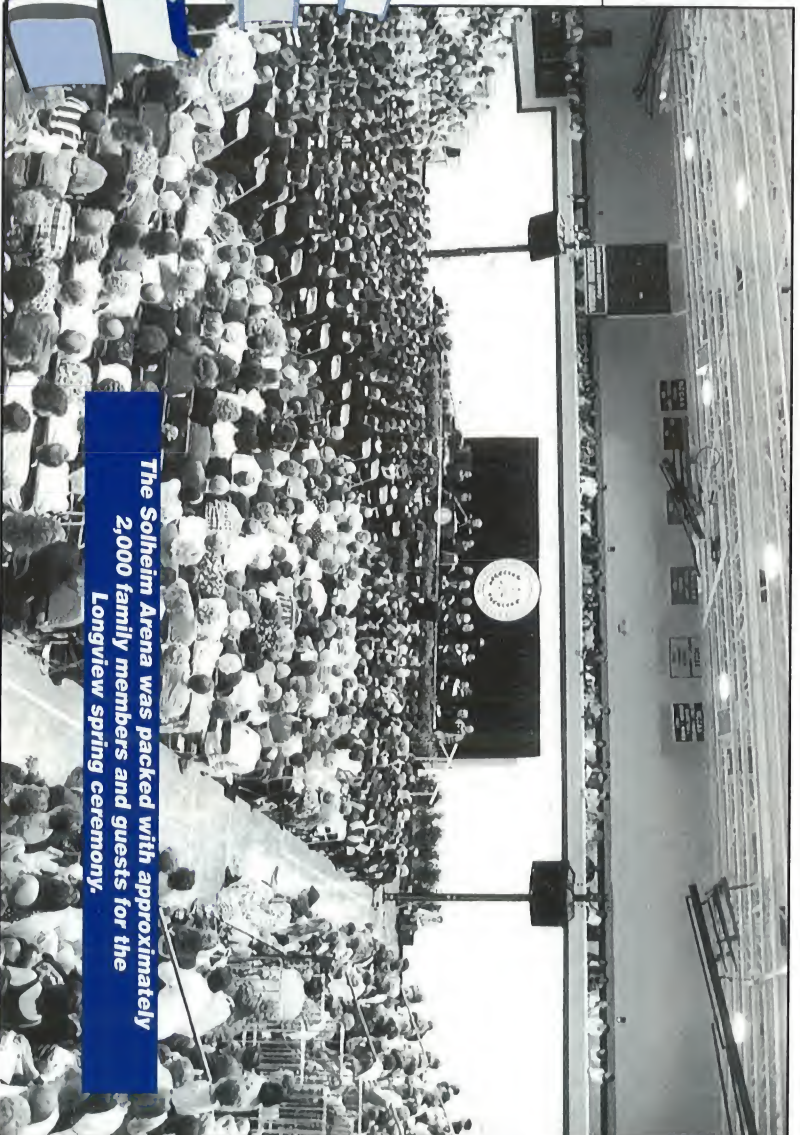
Karen Bennett, a LeTourneau University Teacher Education student from Longview, Texas, has been selected as the Texas Secondary Student Teacher of the Year by the Texas Directors of Field Experience (TDFE). Bennett was honored based on the student teaching she did at Spring Hill I.S.D. last fall. Bennett was presented her award in ceremonies earlier this spring at a Teacher Education Conference in Corpus Christi. An award was also presented to the outstanding elementary preservice teacher.

The award recognizes outstanding teaching efforts by a student who is preparing for a full-time career in education. Bennett submitted a lesson plan and a video tape of the lesson, and taught to an actual class. Judges looked at planning and preparation, knowledge and presentation of subject matter, management of instruction, interaction and communication, and professional image and presentation. Bennett's entry was based on a language arts lesson presented to a group of sixth graders under the guidance of classroom teacher Carol McDowell.

"This is the first time a LeTourneau student has earned the Student Teacher of the Year award, and I am very excited," said Dr. Sharon Feaster, director of the LeTourneau University Teacher Education Program. "Karen has a teacher's heart for students, a strong desire to relate to her students and a willingness to find ways for her students to be successful," said Feaster.

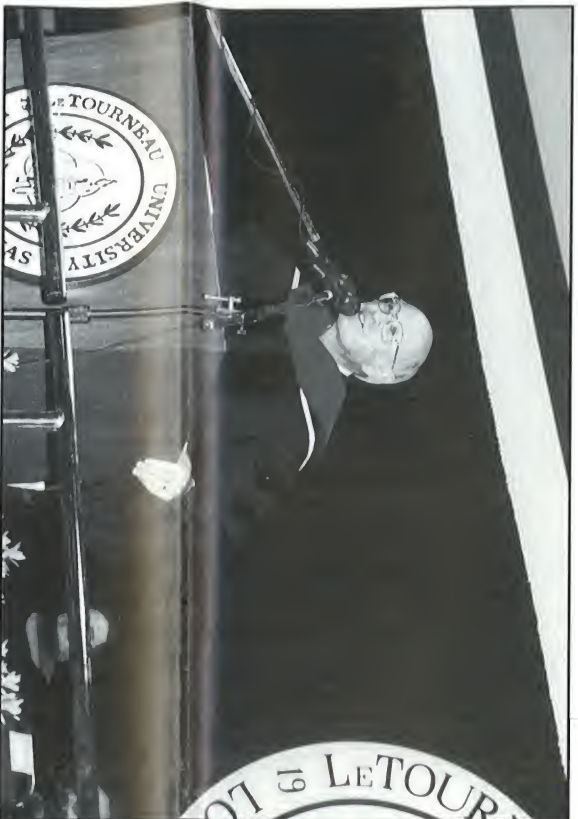


Karen Bennett has been named the 1997 Texas Student Teacher of the Year. Here she accepts her award from Dr. Don Alford, chair of the Education Department at East Texas Baptist University and chair of the Student Teacher Awards Committee of the Texas Directors of Field Experience. The award recognizes the outstanding secondary student teacher in Texas. Bennett is the first LeTourneau University teacher education student to earn the statewide award.



The Solheim Arena was packed with approximately 2,000 family members and guests for the Longview spring ceremony.

LeTourneau University Graduates Nearly 900 in Fall and Spring Commencement Services



Dr. Neil Ashcraft, Longview spring commencement speaker



The University graduated a record 452 in the fall 1996 commencements. Children of Dan O'Bryan, a December 1996 graduate from the Houston program, graduate with Dad. "The kids looked forward to my graduation as much as I did," said O'Bryan.



Spring 1997 graduates Curtis Fitchett, "SuperDave" David Kirkwood, and Owen Watkins wait to mount the stage at the Longview ceremony. David Kirkwood was given the nickname "SuperDave" for overcoming great obstacles to graduate in spite of losing three limbs to meningitis in June 1995.

LeTourneau graduated 873 students in commencement services held in Longview and Houston in December and May.

Dr. Neil Ashcraft, pastor of Scofield Memorial Church, Dallas, delivered the Longview spring commencement address. Dr. Harry Luceny delivered the Longview fall address. President Alvin Austin was the featured speaker at the Houston program, both in the fall and spring.

The 873 graduates came from throughout Texas, 29 states and 15 foreign nations, and represent the largest-ever group of students to graduate during one academic year. LeTourneau has more than 10,000 alumni from all 50 states and from 55 nations.



PRESIDENT AUSTIN ELECTED TO NAIA COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS

Dr. Alvin O. Austin has been elected to a three-year term with the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Council of Presidents, a 32-member body consisting of chief executive officers from NAIA institutions throughout the United States and Canada. Austin will serve as a representative from the Southwest Region.

The NAIA represents 225 member institutions across the U.S. and Canada. More than 60,000 student-athletes from NAIA colleges and universities compete in 11 men's sports and 10 women's sports. LeTourneau University competes in men's baseball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's cross-country, men's soccer and women's volleyball.

The Council of Presidents is the NAIA's chief governing body. It has responsibility for all budget and fiscal matters, supervision of the chief executive officer and national office staff, and continuing review of academic standards.

"I am pleased to be a part of the leadership of the NAIA during this important and transitional time in the history of intercollegiate athletics. The NAIA stands strong in its support of both scholarship and athletics, a balance that is critical to maintain in this era of athletic excesses. To represent LeTourneau University and the other colleges of the Southwest is an honor for me," said Austin.



LeTourneau University

N • E • W • S B • R • I • E • F • S



Dr. Robert Stephens
(1980 file photo)

DR. ROBERT L. STEPHENS WITH THE LORD

Dr. Robert "Doc" Stephens died as he had lived: in the service of his Lord. He passed away on Feb. 15 in Kandern, Germany, where he and his wife of 55 years, Barbara, were teaching at the Black Forest Academy, a high school for missionary children. Dr. Stephens was 75.

"Doc" came to LeTourneau in 1962, serving as professor of chemistry and chair of the Division of Natural Sciences. In 1965 he was appointed academic dean, and in 1966 was named vice president for academic affairs.

During his time in academic affairs LeTourneau received its first accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). He left LeTourneau for several years and in 1978 returned until his retirement.

Retirement may be an inappropriate word, as he taught three years at Trinity School of Texas and was completing his sixth year at Black Forest Academy at the time of his death.

The LeTourneau University family extends sincere sympathies and condolences to Barbara, sons Roger and Richard, daughters Donna Kay and Elizabeth and the family.



LeTourneau Students Study Around the World

LeTourneau students made the world their classroom this past semester by studying in Washington, D.C., Latin America and the Middle East through programs managed by the Coalition for Christian Colleges & Universities.

Virginia Harris, Brownsville, Tenn., a senior majoring in accounting, studied public policy in the nation's capital with the American Studies Program (ASP). She explored the integration of faith, learning and living in the context of public policy study. Credit was earned through internships and participating in a contemporary, issue-oriented seminar program. Internships were available in congressional offices, social service agencies, think tanks, law offices, businesses, cultural institutions and other organizations.

Sherre Stewart, Henderson, Nev., a sophomore majoring in history/political science, studied in San Jose, Costa Rica through the Latin American Studies Program (LASP). She was given the opportunity to study the language, culture, politics, history, economics, ecology and religion of the region while living with a Costa Rican family.

Highlights also included participation in a service project and travel to surrounding countries.

Kevin Nordell, Monticello, Minn., a recent graduate with an Engineering - Electrical Concentration, B.S., spent the spring semester in Cairo, Egypt, participating in the Middle East Studies Program (MESP). MESP trains students to relate to the Muslim world in an informed and constructive manner. Students explored Middle East cultures, religions and conflicts from within this diverse and strategic region of the world. Students participated in interdisciplinary seminar classes, received Arabic language instruction, served as interns with various organizations in Cairo and spent two weeks in Israel/Palestine.

The Coalition of Christian Colleges & Universities is an association of more than 90 Christ-centered institutions of higher education.

Academic credit is granted by the home college or university.

Elementary Education Newest Program

LeTourneau's Board of Trustees has approved the addition of an elementary education degree program, pending state approval, which is expected this fall.

The University has had a highly successful secondary education program for several years, and planning for the start-up of the elementary program has been underway for some time.

Students are now being accepted into the program, which will be under the direction of Dr. Sharon Feaster, director of teacher education. Students will earn a bachelor of science in interdisciplinary studies, which is a comprehensive degree program that allows them to have up to three concentrations, or specialization areas. Concentrations include 21 credit hours in one of seven areas (English, history, life/earth science, mathematics, physical education, reading or social studies), 18 hours in professional education and 18 hours in a combination of subjects not covered in the first concentration. General education courses will round out the 126-credit hour degree program.

As with all LeTourneau programs, all elementary education degrees will include a minimum of 12 credit hours in biblical studies.



Guy Brown

L.I.F.E. Seminar

Guy Brown, a former linebacker for the Dallas Cowboys, and now owner of a highly successful and award-winning company in the Dallas Metroplex, spoke at a day-long entrepreneurship seminar held in March at LeTourneau University.

The Leaders in Future Entrepreneurship (L.I.F.E.) seminar was designed to encourage area high schoolers to consider creating and running their own businesses.

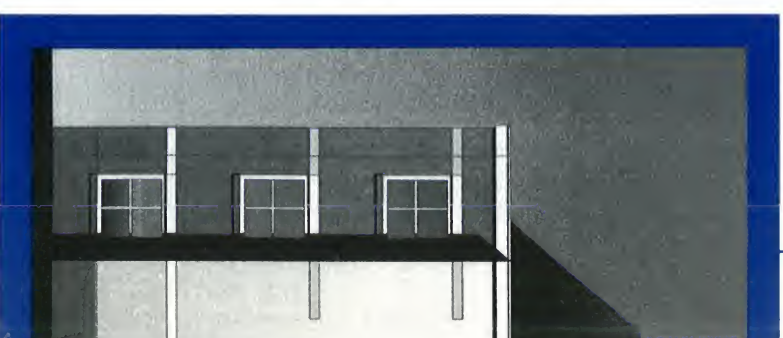
In addition to Brown, a variety of entrepreneurs and small business experts spoke to the students.

The program was funded by an Entrepreneurship Awareness and Education grant of \$25,000 from the Coleman Foundation, Chicago, Ill.

Partners with LeTourneau were the local school districts of Hallsville, Kilgore, Longview, Pine Tree, New Diana, Tatum and White Oak. The L.I.F.E. program is co-directed by LeTourneau University staff members Paula Beach, director of continuing studies, and Kimberly Russell, director of foundations and corporate relations.



Jacob "Jake" Reynolds, left, is commissioned into the U.S. Marine Corps as a second lieutenant by Dr. Dannie Tindle. Reynolds graduated from LeTourneau University on May 3, earning a bachelor of science degree in business administration, and later that day was commissioned into the Marine Corps. Dr. Tindle, LeTourneau University professor and chair of the Division of Business Administration and retired Air Force Lt. Colonel, administered the oath of commissioning. Reynolds will travel to Quantico, Va., for basic training and will then enter flight school.



LeTourneau University

N • E • W • S B • R • I • E • F • S

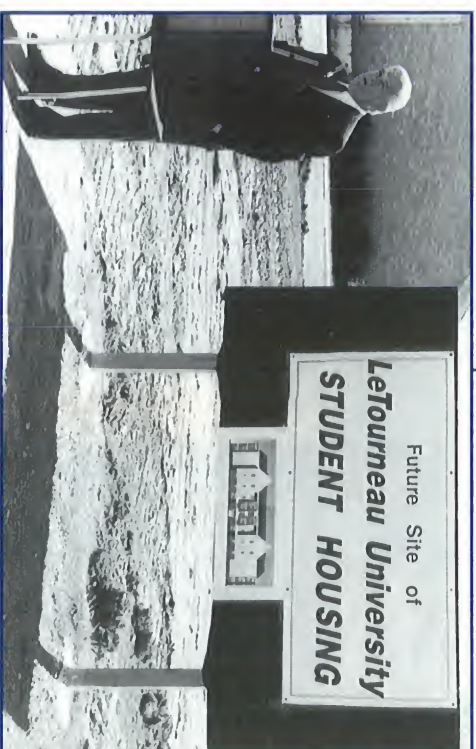
And All the Women Said "Amen!" LeTourneau University Breaks Ground on New Residence Hall for Women

LeTourneau University kicked off its newest building project—a \$3.6 million residence hall for women—with a groundbreaking ceremony Thursday, March 6, on the building site, adjacent to the present Women's Residence Hall.

Participating in the event were representatives from the faculty, administration and student body,



Members of the board of trustees, faculty, staff, students and community turn the first shovel of earth to kick off the \$3.6 million construction project.



Dr. Austin leads the groundbreaking ceremony for LeTourneau's new Residence Hall for Women.

Longview Mayor I.J. Patterson, officials from the architects, F & S Partners, Dallas, and the general contractor RPR Construction Co., Inc., Tyler. Special speakers included Jennifer Edmunds, residence director for women, and Gordon Bullivant, 1996-97 Student Senate president. Dr. Alvin O. Austin, LeTourneau president was the master of ceremonies.

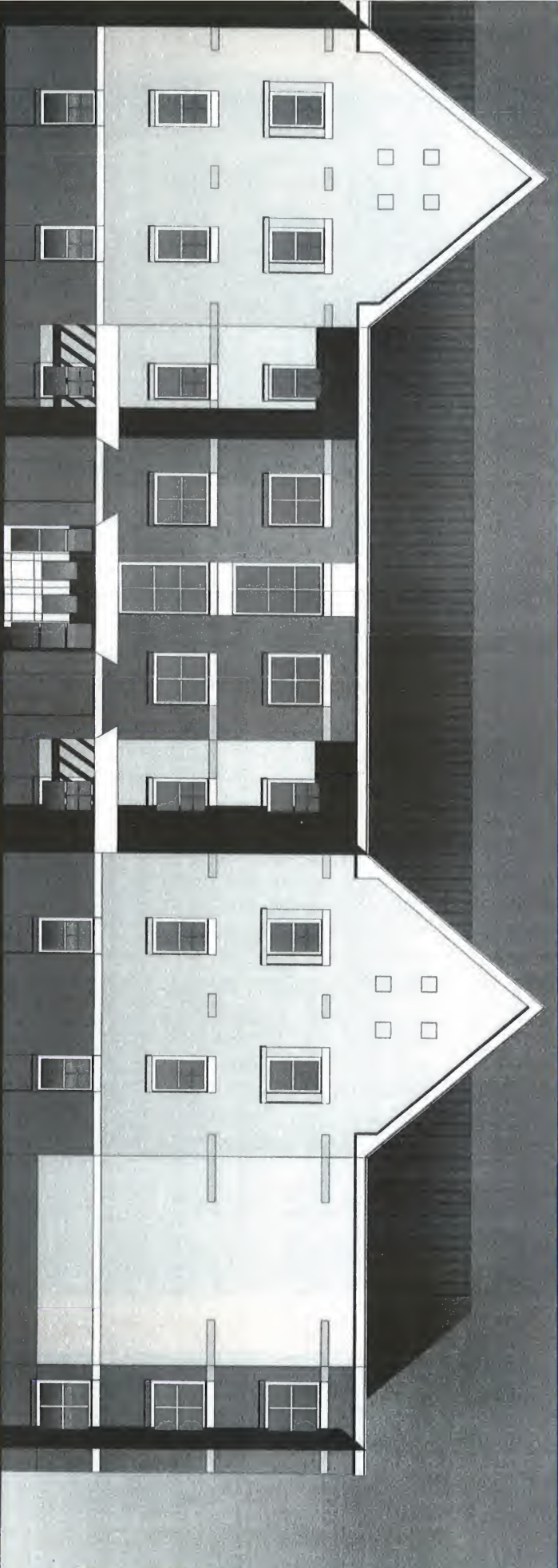
The program was concluded with a prayer by Dr. Don Knoop, chair of the University's Teaching Faculty Organization.

The new residence hall will be one of the largest construction projects the University has undertaken in its 51-year history. It will include apartment-style housing for 96

women, as well as lounges and common areas. The project is due to be completed in mid 1998. The new construction replaces World War II-era barracks, one of the few remnants of Harmon General Hospital, a decommissioned military facility that LeTourneau University purchased after the war. The new building is being funded through internal funds and will be built essentially debt-free.

The new building is the latest in a series of campus construction projects undertaken by the University. Approximately \$18 million in new construction has been built on the campus in the past 10 years, according to President Austin.

Architectural drawing of the new women's residence to be located just west of the present women's residence hall.





THE "MAILBOX INDICATOR" WON GRAND PRIZE IN 1997 INVENTION CONTEST

The "Mailbox Indicator," invented by a team of three 6th graders from Hallsville (Texas) Middle School, has taken Grand Prize honors in LeTourneau University's 13th annual Invention and Design Contest, beating out 323 other inventions. Invented by Timothy Barker, Hallsville, Nick Brown, Longview and Chris McMillian, Hallsville, the invention is a spring-loaded flag system that pops up after the postal carrier delivers mail to a rural mailbox.

The "Mailbox Indicator" was one of 73 inventions which earned cash prizes and other awards at the contest. Over 500 inventors competed in four different divisions for a total of \$1,200 in cash prizes.

According to contest coordinator Bill Gibbs, director of University relations for LeTourneau University, the 324 entries were the largest number of inventions ever entered in the contest, shattering the previous record of 247 inventions set last year.

The contest honors the inventive genius of University founder R.G. LeTourneau, who died in 1969. LeTourneau was granted more than 300 U.S. patents. The Invention Contest is sponsored each year by the LeTourneau University Associates, a group of business and community leaders who serve as advisory board members to the University's administration.

MINI-BAJA TEAM TAKES MAJOR PRIZE IN OFF-ROAD VEHICLE DESIGN COMPETITION

An off-road vehicle designed and built by a team of LeTourneau University students earned first place honors in an intercollegiate SAE Mini-Baja Vehicle Design competition held in April in Phoenix.

The LeTourneau team's entry, "The Desert Thrasher," took first place in the maneuverability trials, one of several events in the three-day competition. This was the best showing ever by a LeTourneau team. L.U. students have entered the contest for the past five years.

More than 60 off-road vehicles, designed by teams of engineering students from universities throughout the U.S. competed in the competition, which included a maneuverability trial, a sprint race, an endurance race and several presentation events. The contest was held April 11-13 at the Caterpillar Proving Grounds outside Phoenix, Ariz., and sponsored by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE).

Team members included senior engineering students David Archibald, Greensboro, N.C.; Armand Mowery, Troup, Texas;

Misty Ryan, Marshall, Texas; Laurie Salo, Lockwood, N.Y.; and John Walrod, Southfield, Mich. Other members of the team included junior engineering student John Morris, Grand Prairie, Texas, senior design technology major Shannon Smith, Nassau, Bahamas, and junior automotive technology major Ty Hagy, Washington, Ill. Dr. Bill Thrasher, professor of mechanical engineering, was the faculty sponsor and namesake for the vehicle.

According to team leader Laurie Salo, the purpose of the competition was to learn how to design and build a durable one-person, off-road vehicle that could stand up to a lot of punishment, yet be fun and economical to own. "As we designed our vehicle, we wanted a vehicle that could potentially be sold to the public for just \$2,400, yet would provide a safe, enjoyable ride over the roughest terrain," said Salo.

The first place award for maneuverability came as no surprise to the team members. "The Desert Thrasher" has a turning radius of just 5.5 feet and a very precise rack-and-pinion steering system. An average-sized adult could lie down on the ground and the vehicle could literally run circles around the person," said Salo.

The Mini-Baja Competition is one of several design and fabrication contests LeTourneau students have entered this spring. Other teams are working on a solar-powered boat, a radio-controlled cargo plane and a super-high mileage vehicle.

"We enter these contests to help our students learn. It's fun to win, but our objective is academic. These contests help them learn how to translate ideas into reality—something engineers must do every day. It's one thing to create a design and quite another to make it work," said Dr. Thrasher.



Inventions at the 1997 Invention Contest were judged on several criteria, including marketability, innovation and design. The "Mailbox Indicator" (shown left) was awarded grand prize in the competition.

MUSCLING TO THE TOP OF THE HEAP:

LeTourneau Engineering Team Takes First Place Honors with Artificial Muscle Research at Regional Student Conference

Two LeTourneau University students have earned first place honors in competition held at the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Region 10 Student Conference. The conference was held April 3-6 at the University of Texas, Arlington. Students from 16 universities in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Texas and the nation of Mexico participated in the competition.

Chris Lee, a senior mechanical engineering major from Hong Kong, took first place in the Technical Poster Competition. Jeff Thielman, a senior mechanical engineering major from Eugene, Ore., had the best Technical Presentation and placed second in the Oral Competition.

Lee and Thielman made presentations about their research on "Artificial Muscles Across the Human Elbow." Artificial muscle is a polymer product made from Orlon™ and under the right chemical conditions, can contract and expand in much the same way as real muscle tissue. "The goal of our research is to understand how artificial muscle works so practical applications can be developed. One potential use might include encasing a human heart so that it would help weak heart muscles to expand and contract. Another might be attaching the artificial muscle to prosthetic devices to enable a person's movement," said Thielman.

Lee and Thielman worked with a team of LeTourneau students to conduct the research. Other team members included Heather Bock, Glen Collison, Craig Smokowicz and faculty sponsors Dr. Roger Gonzalez and Dr. Bill Thrasher. The artificial muscle fibers were supplied by Dr. Mohsen Shahinpoor, a faculty member at the University of New Mexico. In May, Thielman also made a formal presentation about the research project to the engineering faculty at the University of New Mexico.

Universities competing in the event included U.T. Austin, Texas A & M, Rice, Tulane, the University of Arkansas, and the University of Guanajuato.

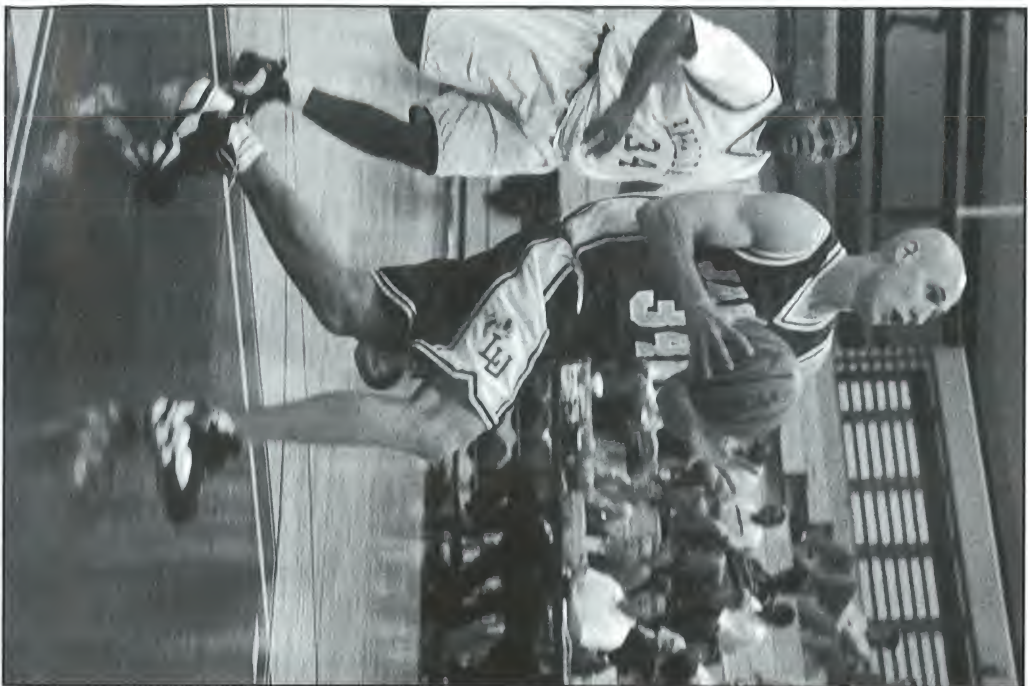


Members of the Artificial Muscle Team. Team sponsor, Dr. Roger Gonzalez, is second from the left (standing).



John

BY JOHN INMAN, DIRECTOR OF SPORTS INFORMATION



Senior Jimmy Stellato (with ball) was a potent force for the Yellowjackets as they claimed second place in the Big State Conference and had the best record in 10 years.

MEN'S BASKETBALL, BASEBALL, TEAMS CLOSE STRONG

The men's basketball team, coached by Bill Robinson, overcame a 4-10 record to win 10 of its final 13 games, claim a second-place finish in the conference, gain a first-round playoff contest and turn-in its best record in 10 years.

A 77-52 triumph over Southwestern Adventist sparked the 'Jackets, and they rebounded to win nine of 12 Big State games, including eight of nine in one stretch, and came in just a game behind Huston-Tillotson in the league race.

"It would have been easy for the guys to give up, because it seemed we couldn't do much right for a while there," said Robinson. "They hung in there, though, and began to play as a team and do the things the coaching staff had been trying to get them to do, and they finally turned it around."

Senior Jimmy Stellato became a force in Big State Conference play as the 6-6 forward led the team in scoring six times in an eight-

game stretch and had a high of 33 against Wiley in a 98-91 come-from-behind win. Fellow seniors Adam Culver and Juan Branch were defensive forces, and others like freshmen Stephen Cyrus and Brian Pace, plus transfers Josh Wright and Jeff Surratt, all came through to help.

Unfortunately, the season ended in a 78-74 loss to Ambassador in the semifinals of the post season tournament. With a young line-up, the baseball team struggled early as well. Only Brad Cox was holding his own on the mound, and seniors Todd Johnson and Mike Huffman were steady at the plate. Howard Payne and McMurry University made life miserable by handing the 'Jackets four straight setbacks, including two to Cox.

Once Big State Conference play rolled around, however, the team was more mature, had a little more experience and was able to make a bona fide run for the school's first NAIA baseball title. The 'Jackets finished 12-3 in second place and overcame 13 rainouts to post a 24-18 season mark, the fifth straight season with 24 or more victories.

More importantly, the 'Jackets won the first two games of the post season tournament to come within a win of advancing to the Southwest Regional Tournament for the first time before stumbling to LSU-Shreveport in the title game. Cox, the most decorated pitcher in LeTourneau history in just his second season, was 13-7 after carving a 144 record one year ago.

At the plate, Huffman and Johnson were just under the .400 mark, while Huffman had 10 homers and had driven-in 50 runs and Johnson stole 28 bases. Sophomore Reese Smith, freshman Zach Taylor, sophomore Brandon Hood and freshman Greg Whittington also came up with timely hits to help win games down the stretch.



1997 Men's Baseball Team finished with a 24-18 season record.

WILLIAM ELDER NAMED NEW ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



**Dr. William Elder,
Athletic Director**

7

Dr. William Elder, founder and manager of Diversified Sports Consulting and formerly Vice President for Athletic Affairs and Head Men's Basketball Coach at the University of Mobile (Alabama), has been named LeTourneau University's Athletic Director and Coordinator of Physical Education. He replaces Dr. Richard Beach, who has taken a position at Philadelphia College of the Bible. From 1965-96,

Dr. Elder was Vice President for Athletic Affairs and Head Men's Basketball Coach at the University of Mobile, which is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. During his tenure, the athletic program grew from two sports with 14 student-athletes to 15 sports with 290 student-athletes and won the Thomas Howell Commissioner's Cup, symbolic of the best athletic program in the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference, for seven years in succession.

Elder's basketball teams compiled a 549-288 won-loss record, including ten 20-win seasons and two 30-win seasons. In his final year at the University of Mobile, he was ranked as the 13th winningest active coach in NAIA Division I.

GRADUATE, ADULT CONTINUING STUDIES DIVISION NEWS

LETOURNEAU HOSTS CAAHE STUDENT SERVICES CONFERENCE

The Dallas Educational Center hosted the inaugural meeting of the student services personnel of the Consortium for the Advancement of Adult Higher Education (CAAHE) on February 27-28, 1997. Over 50 student services administrators, representing 16 colleges and universities in the consortium, attended the conference to discuss current student-related topics, such as student retention, chaplaincy programs and financial aid.

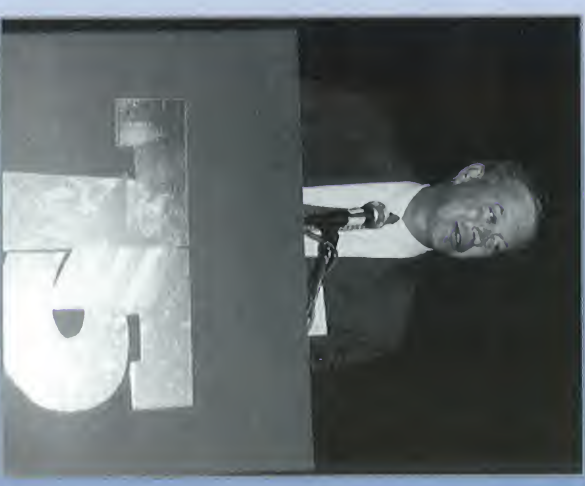
Keynote speakers included Dr. Robert W. Hudson, Dean of the Graduate, Adult and Continuing Studies Division at LeTourneau University, who delivered the address entitled "Value-Added Leadership: A Commitment to Service", and Dr. Oscar L. Newton, a noted retired insurance executive from Houston, who spoke on "Gateways to Survival and Success—A Road to the 21st Century."

Texas Nameplate Company Honored Again!

Winning awards is starting to be habit-forming for Dallas-based Texas Nameplate Company.

Last year, the company was given the Texas Quality Award, the statewide equivalent of the Malcolm Baldrige Award. This spring, the company was honored as the Texas Business of the Year (Private Sector), by the Texas Association of Business and Chambers of Commerce. During the past year, the company has grown by 16 percent and is just one of only three nameplate firms in the U.S. to achieve ISO 9002 certification.

Dale Crowmover, a 1997 graduate (BSBM), is president and CEO of the company. Scott Weber, also a 1997 graduate (BSBM), is the company's chief financial officer.



Dale Crowmover, (197 BSBM) accepts the Texas Business of the Year (Private Sector) Award, presented by the Texas Association of Business and Chambers of Commerce to Crowmover's Texas Nameplate Company. Crowmover is the president and CEO of the firm, which makes identification nameplates for industrial and home products.

Adult Degree Options Expanded with Three New Programs

Adult students now have the opportunity of selecting from two new degree programs at the undergraduate level and one new degree program at the graduate level. The two new degree completion programs replace the bachelor of business management program which has been in place since the adult division's inception in 1989. Students may now choose either the Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) or the Bachelor of Business Management (BBM) degrees.

While the two undergraduate degrees share a few common courses, they are different in that the BBA is geared for students in more quantitative careers in which statistics, accounting and operation research are strategic tools. The BBM curriculum broadens the scope of the manager with courses such as "Managing innovation and change," and "Managing quality and organizational behavior."

Adult students seeking a graduate-level management degree may now choose the new Master of Science in Management (MSM) degree. This new program offers a program of study for the graduate student whose career is in advanced administrative positions in not-for-profit organizations, as well as governmental agencies and private-sector businesses. All degree programs will be available at all Educational Centers.

"We've Done Well . . . But We Could Do Better!" Retention Study Focuses on Helping Adults Stay in School

It's a common problem across the nation. Universities work hard to get students through the "front door" but often neglect to close the "back door." In other words, students enter the academic world, but some never complete their study program and drop out along the way.

In LeTourneau's adult division, the retention rate, or number of students who continue to complete their study programs, is 74 percent—one of the highest retention rates in the nation for adult programs. But according to Dr. Robert Hudson, dean of the Division of Graduate, Adult and Continuing Studies, the University could do better.

Linda H. Fitzhugh, associate dean, and Delinda S. Hall, registrar, identified students who began an adult undergraduate program, completed most of their courses, yet had never completed their degree. Ironically, the typical adult student who had stepped away from their study program needed just 12 credit hours to complete their degree. These students were contacted and encouraged to finish.

The response was well worth the effort. Of the 281 students contacted, over one-third responded positively, saying they wanted to finish what they had begun earlier at LeTourneau University. A plan was developed for each of these to help them complete their degree. At this May's graduation, an additional 37 students earned bachelor's degrees, in some part due to the division's careful attention to this group.

Some students wrote letters indicating their desire to come back into the program. One student from Dallas described a myriad of physical and financial challenges she had encountered, which had caused her to drop out of the program, and said, "I would love to pick up where I left off and finally complete my degree." A Fort Worth student wrote, "Thank you for taking interest in my goals." Still another wrote, "I would like nothing more than to frame my diploma and proudly display it."

The division plans to continue this study, not only with students who are in the undergraduate programs, but also with students in the graduate programs.